

# Portugal

"New shores deserved make every tomorrow fair,  
And Cintra's mountain greets them on their way,  
And Tagus dashing onward to the deep,  
His fabled golden tribute here to pay,  
And coo on board the Lusian pilot's leap,  
And steer 'twixt fertile shores where yet few reapers reap.

"Oh, Christ! it is a goodly sight to see  
What Heaven hath done for this delicious land!  
What fruits of fragrance blush on every tree!  
What goodly prospect o'er the hills expand!"

This 'delicious land' does not always receive  
her due meed of praise. Everyone has  
heard a good deal of the charms of Italy  
& Switzerland, even of sunny France; but  
everybody does not realize that Portugal  
is a land of sunny skies & ocean-washed  
shores. Pausanias is so far gone that the  
people have a legend of how Noah journeyed  
hither from the far east that he might  
see the great glory of the Luvian descent  
into these western seas; a land where  
broad rolling rivers pay their "golden tribute"  
to the deep;

Nikshich & Rodgoritz, to the north & south of the old boundary; & Antivari, a town on the Adriatic with a harbour. Yet even the Montenegrin women—who do most of the work for their warlike husbands—<sup>have been</sup> ~~into~~ compelled to bring their bacon, venison, hides & wool to Cattaro for exportation, as they had no seaboard of their own. Cattaro is a seaport town on the narrow strip of Dalmatian territory which divides Montenegro from the Adriatic.

### Bosnia & Herzegovina

The mountainous region to the north-west, including the provinces of Turkish Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina have had a peculiarly turbulent history. The Turkish conquest of these provinces was slow & difficult, & for over three centuries, Herzegovina was the battle field of Christians & Mahomedans. In 1877 these three provinces <sup>were finally</sup> ~~annexed~~ <sup>annexed</sup> into the Turkish provinces of Bosnia & Herzegovina, & since that time the country has been the scene of almost constant disturbances & rebellions by the brave & hardy mountaineers.

On account of the unsettled condition of the country, it was decided at the Treaty of Berlin that Austrian troops should, for the present, occupy Bosnia & Herzegovina, & that the government should be in the hands of Austria.

The Bosnians are a tall, strong, handsome people, though quarlike Croats, but they do not neglect to cultivate the lovely well-watered valleys that lie between

L19p3 CMC34

the mountains which nearly cover this country.  
Great quantities of grain & fruit are grown,  
game & fish abound, & the country is  
famous for its honey bees, its sheep  
& goats & its swine.

Every town has its fortress, & beyond the  
walled towns are rather miserable suburbs  
inhabited by the lowest class. Sarai-  
Bosnia is the capital, & the chief trading town,  
Banyaluka is in a beautiful spot, &  
has mineral springs; Zvornik has  
a great tract in the timber cut down  
from the forest covered mountains;  
Mostar has a really handsome stone  
bridge.

### The Holy Mountains

To the east of the Gulf of Saloniki is a  
peninsula which stretches two curiously  
shaped proms into the waters of the Archipelago.  
The most eastern of these is Mount Athos,  
a magnificent mountain, rising from  
the very sea, in the form of a beautifully  
wooded cone, upwards of 1,000 feet high.  
Dotted about on its sides are altogether  
twenty monasteries, some of them of great  
antiquity, & dating back to the reign of  
Constantine the Great. Besides the monasteries  
there are as many as three hundred  
hermitages, occupied by anchorites who  
live alone in their cells. except on feast  
days, when they join the monks in the  
common repasts. The population is entirely  
male.



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snail; no female is ever allowed to set foot in  
the Holy Monastery, ~~and~~ only an women ex-  
cluded, but not cows, mares, hens, etc. etc. has  
ever been admitted within the holy precincts;  
~~thence~~ all the monasteries swarm <sup>however</sup> with  
huge tom. cats, imported from the neighboring  
islands. Mr. Bowen, a traveller who lately  
visited Mount Athos was asked by a young  
monk who had spent his life in one of its  
monasteries. "What sort of human creature

are women?"  
<sup>the same traveller</sup>  
~~Mr. Bowen~~ also describes a visit to the still  
more remarkable monasteries of Meteora,  
in Thessaly, another of the great monasteries  
of the Greek Church. They are so placed  
upon high, perpendicular cliffs that they  
can only be reached by ladders of rope,  
or by a sort of net, into which a man falls  
is drawn to the top by means of  
a pulley & windlass. Mr. Bowen says,

"I fired off a pistol to attract the attention  
of the monks, when, long before the echo had  
died away over Rindos, two or three cowed  
heads were thrust-out from under the covered  
platform projecting from the summit of  
the rock. After reconnoitering us for  
a moment, the monks threw down what  
seemed a strong cable-net, lowering at  
the same time a thick rope with an iron  
hook at its end. My guide spread the net  
on the ground, & I seated myself in it  
cross-legged. He then fastened the meshes  
together over my head & hung them on the hook.  
The monks above then worked their windlass, &

LIFE 502 34

in about three minutes & a half I reached the summit, a distance of between two & three hundred feet, swinging to & fro in the breeze, sturning round like a point of meat roasting before a slow fire. Being landed, you lie on the floor a perfectly helpless ball, until the monks undo the meshes of the net from the back, unroll you, give you a gentle shake, & then help you to your feet."

There are many other monasteries scattered here & there about Turkey, especially about the Balkan range. The largest of these, some which is ~~a~~ <sup>more</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> of Mount Athos, is that called Rila Monastery, about twelve miles from Samokov. A traveller thus describes his visit - to this beautiful spot.\* "At last we approached the great quadrangular building of Rila Monastery - sight in itself! It is built upon a rocky height overhanging a foaming river, on the site of an ancient ruin. A deep & rocky mountain burn snakes its way close to the monastery walls, down to the river below, & forms a kind of moat for the great gateway where sits an Albanian guard in handsome crimson uniforms with silver facings, & amongst them a few aged monks basking in the sun.

"As we ride under the archway & enter the great court a loud clasp of bells comes forth, as a great welcome, from the high belfry in the centre of the building. Monks are walking in the cloisters around ~~telling~~ <sup>some of them</sup> their beads. ~~of them~~ <sup>steps</sup>

\* Turkey in Europe. J. Baker.



steps forward & takes charge of our horses as we dismount. - A tall dark monk then appears, & by the great keys hanging at his side I know that he is the steward. He takes us in charge, & we are shown through the long gallery into a comfortable room richly carpeted. It is impossible to describe the scenery of this lovely spot: it must be seen to be appreciated. The monastery, although in a ravine, is probably 3,000 feet above the sea, & is surrounded by mountains varying in height from 6,000 to nearly 10,000 feet, which look down into the very country. There are romantic walks by mountain burns, through groves of flowering shrubs & filbert trees, pretty paths & rustic bridges, ferns & flowers; everything, in fact, to make life enjoyable."

The size of this establishment may be imagined from the fact that it sometimes houses & feeds upwards of thousands of pilgrims at one time.

These monasteries of the Greek Church are, throughout Turkey, independent of the Porte, except that they pay a certain annual tribute; but the laws by which they are regulated are made by councils of their own, or by the Greek Patriarch; indeed, they are much in the same position as were the monasteries of England in the reign of Henry VIII.

### The Albanians.

Though Albania still remains under the rule of the Sultan, the inhabitants are

So distinct a race, that we must find them a separate nation. That they are still subject to the Porte is probably due to two causes; in the first place, the majority of the people are Mohammedans, for when, in the fifteenth century, the Turks succeeded in conquering these hardy mountaineers, a law was made which secured the estates of the population to every ~~son~~<sup>family</sup>, which should bring upon son in the Mohammedan faith; & though the Albanians hold their creed so lightly that the faithful treat them as infidels, still it forms a certain bond between them & the Turks. In the second place, the Albanians are so warlike, & their mountainous country is so inaccessible, that Turkey has never attempted to exercise more than a nominal control over Albania, & is careful not to offend her hardy sons who form the best defence of Turkey in times of war.

Roughly speaking, the Albanians may be divided into the Gheghes of the north & the Tosks of the south. The country of the Gheghes is full of mountains & deeps & dense forests; in fact, it is a great natural fortification which its hardy & warlike people are still able to defend.

Even the women are made useful in border fights; they go about armed, & with a sack containing perhaps two children on her back, a woman makes her way to the field to labour, while her



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her lord & master is ranging the mountains  
in search of game. The features of the  
women are coarse from exposure, & both  
sexes are extremely dirty in their  
persons, seldom changing their clothes until  
they drop off, & never washing themselves.  
On high days & holidays they cover their  
shirt with a very picturesque dress.  
They are divided into many clans  
which are frequently at war with each other,  
& their blood-feuds are handed down from  
generation to generation. When not engaged  
in border forays, they are chiefly occupied  
in making firearms & gunpowder, herding  
& stealing large flocks of sheep & cattle, &  
collecting skins & furs. The women  
manufacture the clothing for both sexes  
which consists of a coarse kind of flannel.  
The men invariably go armed, & a  
proud Gheghe may be seen with a long  
gun over his shoulder, two & sometimes  
three pistols, a yataghan in his belt,  
& a crooked sabre by his side. When he  
condescends to follow the plough, he still  
keeps his gun slung across his shoulder,  
securely, he handles the gun more  
cleverly than the plough. Naturally,  
the social condition of these people is  
very low, & this state is fostered by their  
frequent blood-feuds. Indeed, the ambition  
of the young men is to rival their fellows  
in the number of victims they have slain  
in these feuds.  
Very little pains is taken by the Ottomans



LHP 9 cmc 34

authorities to put an end to this savage  
state of society, as they feel that to do it  
effectually, would be to rouse these mount-  
taineers into rebellion, & thus to lose  
their valuable aid in the wars of the kingdom.

These Gheghes are, physically, a fine race  
of men, with the lordly air & independent  
stout commonly observed among  
highlanders. A certain number of  
them descend annually from the  
mountains <sup>to the towns & suburbs of Philippolis</sup> in search of employment  
as masons, carpenters, bakers, shepherds,  
&c. & in the spring they return to  
their homes with their earnings. Idle as  
they are at home, they prove pretty  
good labourers when working in fairs  
in this way.

The Gockas of the south differs from  
their northern neighbours both in  
appearance & character. Their fair  
skin & blue eyes contrast with the  
tawny skin & dark eyes of the Gheghes,  
& as they occupy the plains & the coast  
their habits are more settled & they are  
more industrious & civilized. In  
Turkey most of the ~~guards~~ servants  
used as guards in the country, &  
messengers in the towns are  
Albanians.

The chief towns of Albania are, Janina.  
The chief town in the south, on the banks of  
a lovely lake of the same name which is  
surrounded by lofty mountains, is a  
busy & important town, but is now going down.  
Shutari upon the lake of Shutari is the chief town  
of northern Albania; it has a large trade in wool  
(wool, wax, hides, hair, skins, &c.) & other produce & it  
exports in return for manufactured goods and